

DRY FORK FIRE

08/15/2008 UPDATE

Start Date: August 10, 2008 1800 hrs.
Cause: Human Caused (escaped campfire)
Acres: Estimated 45 Acres
Containment: 100%
Location: Approximately seven miles northeast of Levan in the Sanpete Ranger District of the Manti-LaSal National Forest.

Narrative: The Incident Commander has requested that we share two important messages with the public. The statistics for the fire are listed above. The two messages follow.

The Log Canyon Road has been opened to the public on the east side of the area closure. The area within the closure, the west of the road, remains closed to the public. We are aware of the inconvenience and cost, which the fire and the associated closure have caused to the public, especially to hunters and to those whose livestock and livelihood, depend upon this area of the Forest. Forest Service employees and firefighters are still working in the area. For the safety of the public and the firefighters, please follow all directions given by fire personnel. If you encounter fire traffic or fire personnel on or off the road, please give them space necessary to continue their task. If members of the public enter the closure area, or the safety of the public and firefighters becomes a risk, the road may have to be closed again until operations are completed. Most of the fire traffic and operations will be on the Log Canyon side of the closure. When possible, please use the Maple Canyon Road on the south side of the closure, but this section of road is recommended for high clearance vehicles and no trailers. Using the Maple Canyon Road will reduce the potential for delays. Your patience and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Public Safety: A wildfire started by a campfire is preventable. Build a safe campfire using a fire ring provided in a campground or, when dispersed camping, try to use an established location where others have already created a ring. Always have a responsible adult supervise a campfire and when leaving the area make sure the campfire is dead out. When putting out a campfire, drown the fire with water, stir it, and drown it again. If you pour water on it and it continues smoke or steam, it is not completely out.

Many of us have been personally affected by wildfire and the damage it can cause. At the age of nine, Tommy lost his best friend. Tommy's family lived in what is currently referred to as "Wildland Urban Interface." Tommy's best friend Phillip decided to build his own "campfire" in the fields behind their homes. The fire grew out of control. Phillip died as a result of the fire, along with a firefighter attempting to save him. It was a tragic, yet preventable accident and had a devastating effect on the entire community.

For more information on fire safety please visit the web (www.utahfireinfo.gov), speak to your local fire official, or contact your local Forest Service, BLM or Utah Forestry, Fire & State Lands office. Fire Prevention and Education specialists can provide specific information for homeowners, communities, and other groups. We may even be possible to arrange a visit from Smokey Bear.

Again, your patience, cooperation, and support are greatly appreciated. Remember, "Only you can prevent wildfires".

Sanpete Ranger District, 435 283-4151

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